
TO: Solid Waste Management Select Committee **MEETING:** March 5, 2019

FROM: Meghan Ebueza
Solid Waste Planner **FILE:** 5360-01

SUBJECT: Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Special Committee on Solid Waste Update

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Solid Waste Management Select Committee receives this report for information.

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Special Committee on Solid Waste of which the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is a member.

BACKGROUND

The AVICC was established in 1950 and includes membership of 53 local governments representing Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River (qathet), the North Coast and the Central Coast. The primary purpose of AVICC is to represent and advocate for the various municipalities, regional districts and other local governments within this area. AVICC hosted a 2014 workshop that identified uncertainties facing regional districts related to Solid Waste Management:

- Inability to locate disposal facilities and control waste flows;
- Funding models dependent upon maintaining waste streams;
- Successful diversion strategies impacting disposal volumes;
- Transportation and disposal security issues;
- New technologies available with economies to scale; and
- Significant regulatory and long-term liability costs.

Based on the workshop, the Special Committee on Solid Waste was established, and endorsed by all AVICC members at the 2015 Convention. Since then its term has been extended each year and endorsed by the full AVICC membership at the annual Conventions. Nine regional districts within the AVICC region are committed participants and work together to address common issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding solid waste. Committee members include elected officials representing each regional district, with program implementation by staff from the participating Regional Districts.

AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste - Vision, Goals and Action Plan

Vision:

That local governments on Vancouver Island, qathet and the Sunshine Coast are working together to address the opportunities and challenges of managing solid waste and our residents are aware of and support the need to reduce and manage our waste in a sustainable manner.

Goals:

1. Ensure information is shared between AVICC local governments to encourage best practices in solid waste management and consistent messaging to our residents
2. Collect and maintain appropriate and consistent data associated with solid waste management within the AVICC.
3. Support an informed and unified voice to assist efforts with the Province, NGOs and other partners in developing effective waste management solutions and policies.

Action Plan

Action 1: Partnership – Develop a vision and goals including a communication strategy and a unified education program.

Local governments on Vancouver Island, Powell River and the Sunshine Coast are working together to address the opportunities and challenges of managing solid waste and our residents are aware of and support the need to reduce and manage our waste in a sustainable manner.

Deliverables:

- Spring 2017 Illegal Dumping Video and Campaign launch - Completed
 - Reworked Illegal Dumping video from the Comox Valley Regional District
 - Provided Regional District branded videos to all participating AVICC Solid Waste Committee members
 - Coordinated the launch of Illegal Dumping campaign across all member Regional Districts
- Spring 2019 Recycle Right at Home Videos and Campaign launch – In Progress

Action 2: Partnership – Technical Working Group

The AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste will continue to meet regularly to identify one solid waste challenge or opportunity to investigate at each meeting.

Deliverables:

- Tetra Tech retained by AVICC to review, update and maintain 2015 baseline report with a focus on understanding the differences between the various Regional District data outcomes and establishing consistency and confidence with the data tables.
 - 2017 Tetra Tech worked with AVICC Regional District staff and Ministry staff to update 2016 data – Completed
 - 2019 Tetra Tech has been retained once again to update data based on 2018 numbers – In Progress

Action 3: Advocacy

Engage the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and industry groups to review and expand waste reduction and diversion policies.

Deliverables:

- Meeting held at 2016 UBCM Convention with Minister of Environment, Mary Polak, and with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mark Zacharias. Ministry was interested in the work of the Special Committee and was supportive. Ministry staff committed to participate in AVICC meetings to answer questions and provide a provincial perspective.
- Meeting held at September 2018 UBCM Convention with Minister Heyman, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Meeting held November 2018 with Ministry of Environment Staff including Assistant Deputy Minister David Morel, Environmental Protection Division; Executive Director Kris Ord, Environmental Standards; and Executive Director Tessa Graham, Regional Operations Branch.

Action 4: Long-term Disposal

Conduct an assessment to forecast future solid waste disposal demand of AVICC member populations in twenty, forty and sixty years' time.

Deliverables:

- Administration Group reviewed methodologies for forecasting future growth with three scenarios with varying assumptions around factors including recycling, diversion, construction waste and organic material. - Completed
- Conduct an assessment to forecast future solid waste disposal demand of AVICC populations in 20, 40, and 60 years' time. – In Progress

Action 5: Regulations and Enforcement

Ensure that, where practicable, disposal bans, and bylaws are consistent across regions to reduce leakage across borders.

Deliverables:

- Preliminary information gathered on disposal bans, bylaws and illegal dumping and reported back to the Special Committee. - Completed
- Acknowledge and develop strategies to mitigate potential increases to illegal dumping from disposal bans and bylaws regulations. – In Progress

AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste - Future Solid Waste Priorities

The Technical Working group has identified 3 key priorities to continue to work on in 2019 which include:

1. Organics Management
 - a. Shared Service and Cooperative Efforts
 - b. Aligned Tipping Fee Rates and Bylaws
 - c. Advocacy
2. Long Term Disposal Options
 - a. Shared Service

- b. Cooperative Efforts
 - c. Advocacy
- 3. Single-Use Plastics
 - a. Advocacy
 - b. Alignment

The Technical working group will provide these priorities to the AVICC Special Committee in March in anticipation of a presentation at the AVICC convention in April 2019.

The AVICC Technical and Communications working groups will continue to work on a number of ongoing operational tasks including communication and outreach, solid waste comparative data, mandatory source separation, disposal bans, varying tipping fees and EPR.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Solid Waste Management Select Committee receives this report for information.
2. Provide alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2017, the RDN contributed \$2,942 (rounded to the nearest dollar) to the AVICC Special Committee budget of \$20,000 to provide funding of research, technical expertise and other shared costs. The fair cost allocation formula outlines that there be a contribution of \$500 from each regional district with the remainder of costs for the first \$20,000 to be based on total waste disposed. Regional member costs are outlined in the table below:

AVICC Member	Member flat participation contribution	Total Waste Disposed (tonnes)	% AVICC Total Waste	Participant contribution based on % of waste disposed	Total Member contribution based on \$20,000.00 budget
Alberni-Clayoquot	\$500.00	21,044	6.40%	\$992	\$1,492
Capital	\$500.00	139,412	42.41%	\$6,573	\$7,073
Comox Valley	\$500.00	39,427	11.99%	\$1,859	\$2,359
Cowichan Valley	\$500.00	23,677	7.20%	\$1,116	\$1,616
Mount Waddington	\$500.00	6,172	1.88%	\$291	\$791
Nanaimo RD	\$500.00	51,782	15.75%	\$2,442	\$2,942
Powell River RD	\$500.00	9,242	2.81%	\$436	\$936
Strathcona	\$500.00	27,723	8.43%	\$1,307	\$1,807
Sunshine Coast	\$500.00	10,270	3.12%	\$484	\$984
Total	\$4,500.00	328,749	100%	\$15,500	\$20,000

The AVICC Special Committee is currently reviewing the 2019 Budget but no significant variation is anticipated.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Relationships- We Look For Opportunities To Partner With Other Branches Of Government/Community Groups To Advance Our Region

The RDN partnership with AVICC provides an opportunity to actively engage with other regional districts to advocate for common solid waste management concerns; align solid waste management regulations, bylaws, and tipping fees; and identify shared service and cooperative effort opportunities.



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February 14, 2019

Reviewed by:

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